

# U.S. Department of Education



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## Non-traditional Programs & Distance Learning: What You Can and Cannot Do to Support Your Students

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# What's the Problem?



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- Roots of Student Aid Program in the 60's

# Emerging Patterns of Non-traditional Education



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- Self-paced Learning
- Sequential Course Enrollment
- Overlapping Terms
- Weekend Degree Programs
- Multiple Start Dates
- Combinations of On-campus and Distance Study
- New possibilities for home/host school enrollments



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# Campus Systems

- Separate "On-campus" and Continuing Education Systems
- Structured Around Terms
- Inability to Customize
- Organized to meet Institutional, not Student Needs



# What's Not the Problem

- Distance Education per se (under 50% levels)
- Non-traditional Education provided in Standard Terms

# Term - Characteristics



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- Has a defined beginning date and a defined ending date
- Students generally complete the credits for which they are enrolled within that time period



# Standard Term - Characteristics

## ■ Semester or Trimester

- Approximately 15 weeks long
- Full-time is at least 12 hours
- Academic calendar is 3 terms - Fall, Spring and Summer

## ■ Quarter

- Approximately 10-12 weeks long
- Full-time is at least 12 hours
- Academic calendar is 3 quarters in fall, winter and spring and often a Summer quarter as well

# Statutory and Regulatory Provisions Governing Standard Terms



- 30-week Academic Year
- 1 Day a Week
- Payment Period
- Calculation of Enrollment Status
- Loan Certification
- Pell Formula I
- Track Progress

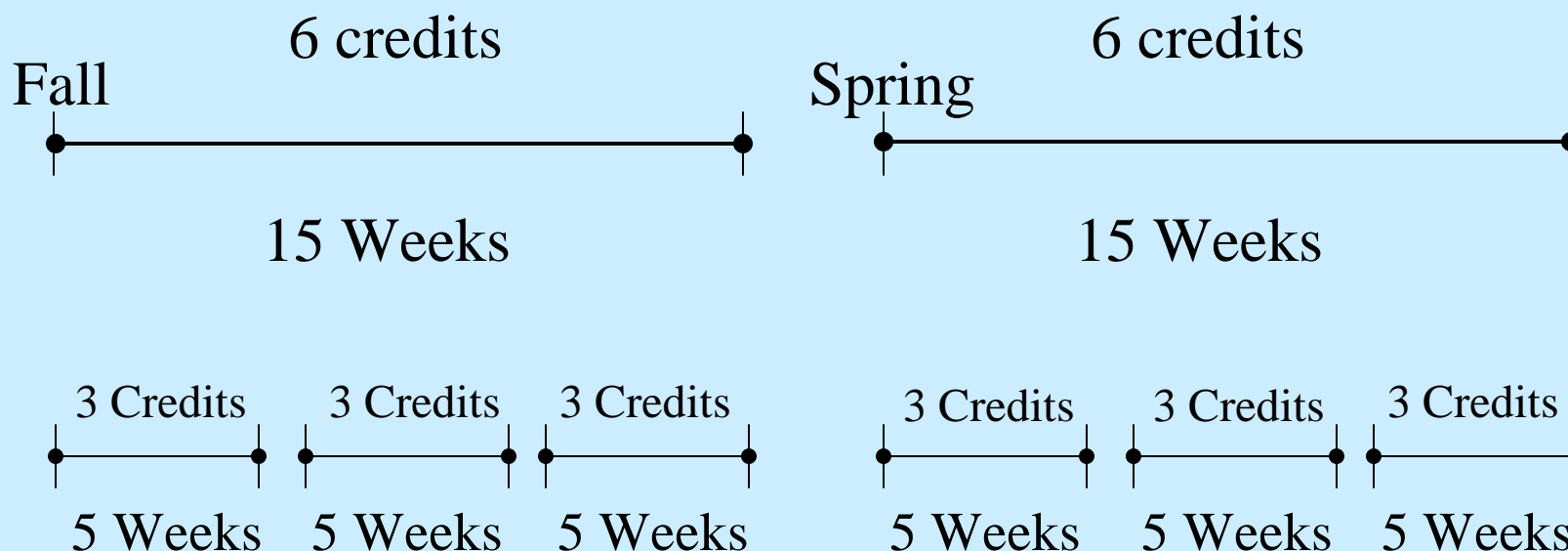




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# Standard Term

## Example 1



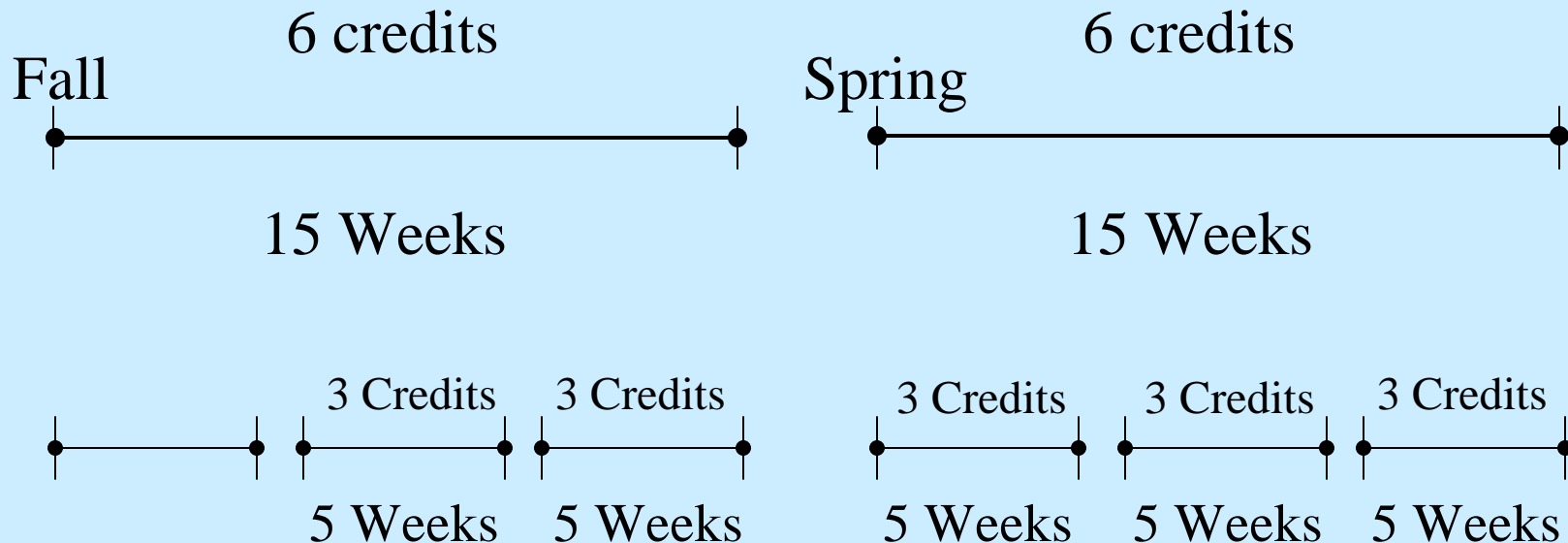
- Pell and Loan disbursements at beginning of each term

# Standard Term



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## Example 2



- Pell and Loan disbursements at beginning of each term

# Non-standard Term - Characteristics



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- Is not a semester, trimester or quarter
- Could be terms of differing lengths or terms that are the length of a quarter but which measure progress in semester credit hours

# Statutory and Regulatory Provisions Governing Non-standard Term Programs



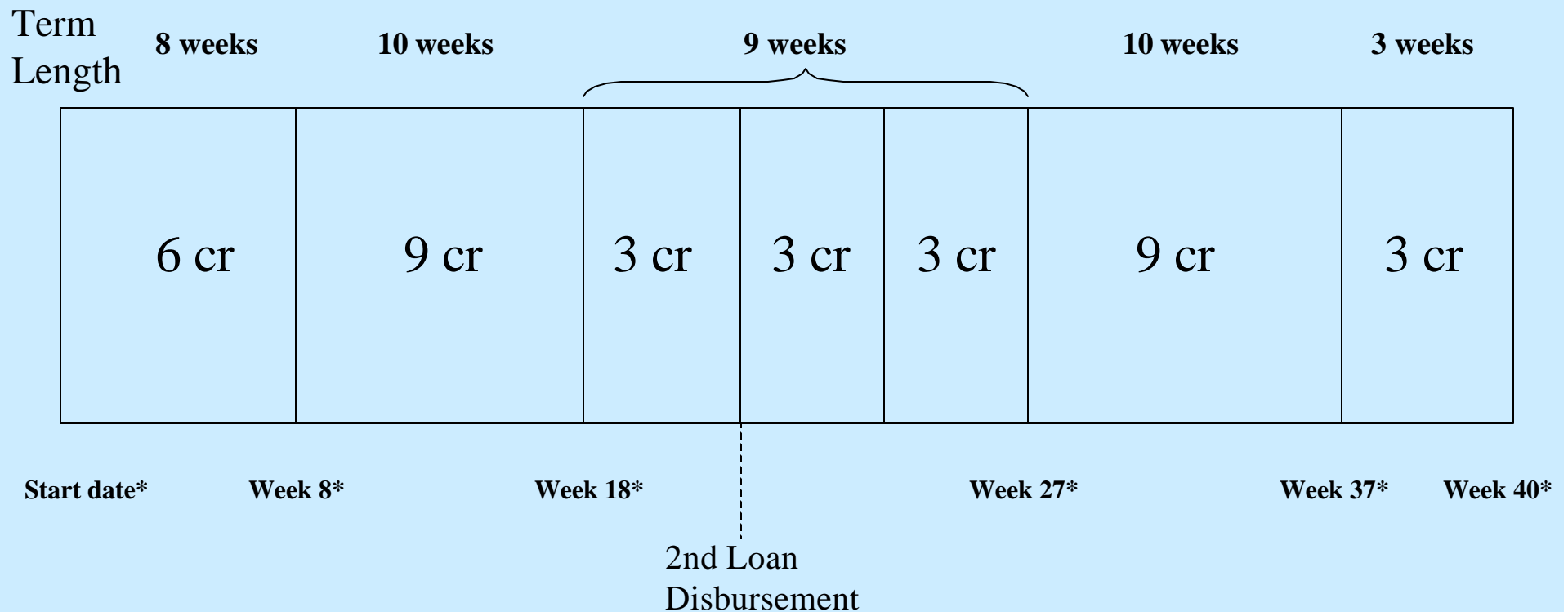
- 12 hour rule - 30-week Academic Year Basis
- Payment Period
- Calculation of Enrollment Status
- Loan Certification
- Pell Formula III
- Track Progress

# Non-standard Term - Vocational Certificate Program



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Loan certified for 37 weeks



\*Pell disbursements each nonstandard term

# FT Enrollment Status for each Payment Period



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Number of credit hours  
in the academic year      x       $\frac{\text{Weeks of instructional time in the payment period}}{\text{Weeks of instructional time in the academic year (as defined by the institution)}} = \text{Full-time enrollment status}$

$$\frac{24 \times 8}{30} = 6.4 \text{ cr} \quad \text{Round up to 7 semester credits required for full-time}$$

$$\frac{24 \times 10}{30} = 8 \text{ cr}$$

$$\frac{24 \times 3}{30} = 2.4 \text{ cr} \quad \text{Round up to 3 semester credits required for full-time}$$

# Pell Calculations for Non-standard Term



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Annual Award      x       $\frac{\text{Weeks of instructional time in the payment period}}{\text{Weeks of instructional time in the academic year (as defined by the institution)}}$       =      Payment for the payment period

$$\$2,475 \quad \times \quad \frac{8}{30} \quad = \quad \$660$$

$$\$3,300 \quad \times \quad \frac{10}{30} \quad = \quad \$1,100$$

$$\$3,300 \quad \times \quad \frac{3}{30} \quad = \quad \$330$$



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# Non-term - Definition

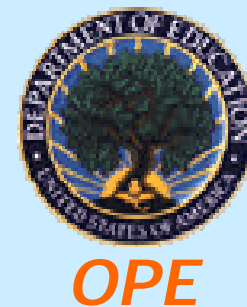
- Does not meet the definition of a term
- Could include self-paced programs or sequential coursework



# Statutory and Regulatory Provisions Governing Non-term Programs

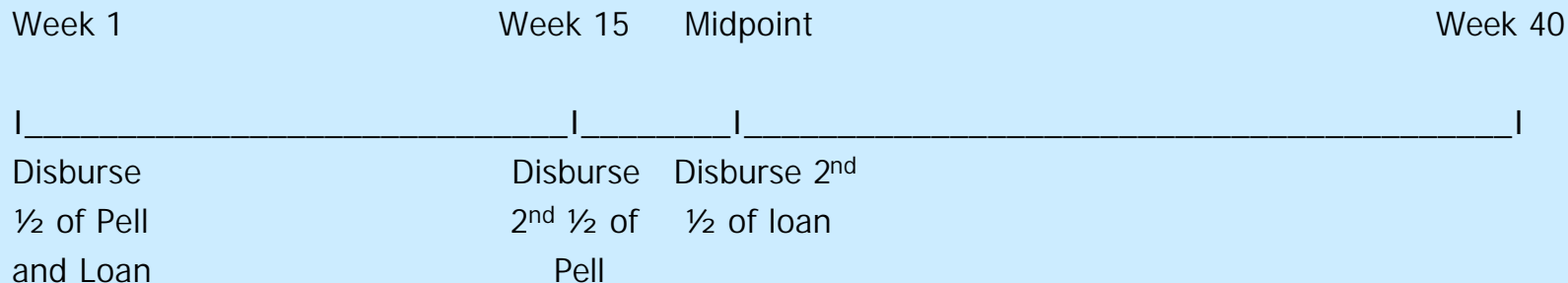


- 12 Hour Rule -- 30-week Academic Year or Longer
- Payment Period
- Calculation of Enrollment Status
- Loan Certification
- Pell Formula IV
- Track Progress

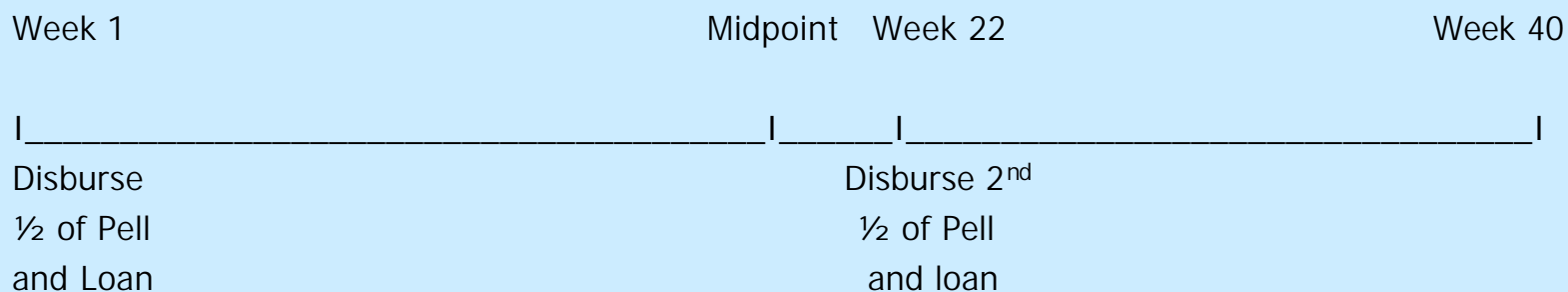


# Non-term Bachelor's Degree Completion Program - Self Paced

**Example 1 -- Student completes 12 semester credits in 15 weeks of a 40-week academic year.**



**Example 2 – Student does not complete 12 semester credits until week 22.**





# Reminders

- 30-week Academic Year = 30 Weeks of Instructional Time
- The 12-hour rule may apply to some of your programs
- Many institutions which are predominately standard term based may also offer vocational programs that are less than a year in length

# Department of Education



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## Distance Education Demonstration Program

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